

# About Performers

A renowned pianist and composer **Rosalia Shifrin** will perform her own compositions and accompany **Lubov Tokareva**, soprano. In her native Azerbaijan **Ms. Shifrin** founded a vocal-instrumental ensemble “Yahad” that successfully performed both at home and abroad. **Ms. Tokareva** is a laureate of several all-Ukraine vocal competitions.

Bass-baritone **Alexander Prokhorov** is a graduate of the Longy School of Music and Boston University’s Opera Institute. Alexander appears regularly with the Boston Early Music Festival, Handel & Haydn Society, the Boston Lyric Opera and other New England opera companies. In 2005 he joined Jewish Musical Theatre Firelech as a vocal coach and a vocalist. Alexander’s repertoire varies from opera and oratorio to Russian romances, church music and Jewish and Israeli songs.

**Eugenia Kravets** is the youngest performer of the concert. She came to the US eight years ago. She started singing and dancing in the Firelech theater back in Lithuania when she was 6 years old and have been doing it ever since. Eugenia will sing Yiddish songs.

The head pianist of all-Ukraine and all-Russia artistic gymnastic teams, composer **Sergei Tarajan** will play his own composition and accompany **Emil Blank**, violin. In his native Ukraine **Mr. Blank** was a concertmaster of Odessa Opera House. **Mr. Blank** performed at several Boston Supports Israel events.

**Yuri Vedenyapin** grew up in Moscow where he studied acting and later Jewish philology. An encounter with an old Yiddish writer from Vilna inspired him to pursue the study of Yiddish culture, which he did in his native Russia, and later in Israel, Poland, Lithuania, and finally, at Harvard and Columbia Universities in the United States. Currently **Mr. Vedenyapin** teaches Yiddish at Harvard and occasionally performs in Yiddish, Russian, and Polish.

A pianist and jazz band leader **Maxim Lubarsky** is a winner of many prestigious jazz awards. He and his jazz band (**Nikolay Moiseenko**, alto saxophone, **Hogyu Hwang**, bass and **Eric Doob**, drums) will perform jazz compositions.

**Zhanna Chatsman** is a singer in Hebrew and Russian, who lived in Israel for many years and truly absorbed the spirit of the country.

The name of a pianist and conductor **Sergei Khanukaev** is familiar to the music lovers in Israel, Russia and the USA. He performed with Haifa Symphony Orchestra and Israeli Chamber Orchestra. **Mr. Khanukaev** will perform with

**Arthur Lukomyansky**, clarinet, who is a graduate of St. Petersburg conservatory.

The duo **Julia Jaffe-Reaboi** (soprano) and **Colman Reaboi** (bas), with guitarist **Tal Katz** will perform songs in Ladino, language of Sephardic Jews. **Mr. Reaboi's** voice has been described as "distinguished" and "a dark bass of a good size". He has sung with several major opera companies, including Boston Lyric Opera, Opera New England, Greater Miami Opera and the Pensacola Opera. Currently **Mr. Reaboi** serves as a cantor at Temple Beth Shalom in Peabody, MA. **Julia Jaffe-Reaboi** has studied piano, voice and opera at the University of Utah.

Says **Mrs. Reaboi**: "I, like many ex-Soviet Jews have family and very close friends in Israel. I visited the country 11 years ago. It was the most spiritually charged month of my life. After visiting Israel, I realized that I am not a Russian Jew, so to speak. I am a descendant of those Jews who lived with the Romans, and in Spain, and in Amsterdam, and in China and now -- in USA, which, if pattern is to continue, is not the last stop. But Israel is the home to come to. It is our only home outside our hearts. I am grateful for the opportunity to sing for Israel."

Israeli jazz band "HaPizmon": **Haggai Cohen Milo** (bass), **Nadav Remez** (guitar) and **Matan Chapnizka** (tenor saxophone) will play jazz Klezmer. The group HaPizmon was formed in September 2006 by three Israeli students of New England Conservatory. The group plays original compositions written by its members as well as Klezmer and Israeli music. The main influence is Israeli and Middle-Eastern music, as well as folk music from all corners of the world. The main element of the group's music is improvisation on the theme through a concept called 'HaPizmon' (Hebrew for 'The Theme'). From the pure melody lines and rhythm through the individual's improvisational voice, the group conveys a message that is on one hand complex and intelligent and on the other hand deep and emotional.